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Letter dated 14 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 13 May 2013 (S/2013/283), by which I informed the Council of the heinous crime committed by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) of Gibril Ibrahim, in Pamina, inside the territory of Chad, when it assassinated Commander Mohamed Bashar and other members of his movement, and with reference to the condemnation by the Security Council of the incident embodied in paragraph 7 of Council resolution 2113 (2013) of 30 July 2013, I have the honour to enclose herewith the report of the extraordinary meeting of the monitoring committee on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, held in Doha on 4 June 2013, which was devoted exclusively to the tragic assassination of Mr. Bashar and some members of his group (see annex).

It is worth mentioning that the meeting overwhelmingly condemned the assassination incident and labelled the JEM Gibril Ibrahim faction as a terrorist group. Therefore, the Government of the Sudan urges the Security Council to label the JEM Gibril Ibrahim faction a terrorist group, and also urges the Council to call upon all Member States, particularly those providing refuge and assistance to members of the JEM Gibril Ibrahim faction, to expel them and refrain from providing any kind of assistance to them.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Report on the deliberations of the extraordinary meeting of the monitoring committee on the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

1. The extraordinary meeting of the monitoring committee on the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur took place in Doha, Qatar, on 4 June 2013.

2. The meeting was chaired by Ahmed Bin Abdalla Al Mahmoud, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, and the following members of the committee participated:

- Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Foreign Minister of Chad
- The assistant to the Foreign Minister of Egypt on the Sudan
- Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Joint Representative of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
- Mr. Salah Haleema, Representative of the League of Arab States in the Sudan
- Representatives of the United Nations, the African Union (AU), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the European Union (EU)
- Representatives of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Canada, Japan and China

3. The meeting was devoted to the assassination of Mohamed Bashar, leader of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) (a signatory faction of the peace agreement), and his Deputy, Arko Sulieman Dahia, and some members of his group, in the Pamina region in Chadian territory on 12 May 2013.

4. Minister Al Mahmoud initiated the meeting by welcoming the participants, indicating that the meeting came during a delicate stage of the Darfur peace process and in the wake of the assassination of some leaders from the Justice and Equality Movement by the Gibril Ibrahim faction after they opted for peace. He said the incident was a heinous crime targeting Darfurians who inclined to peace, affirming that such acts would only make them more determined to pursue the peace process to its end. He added that what hurt most was that the Gibril Ibrahim faction not only rejected negotiations and the peace process but also targeted those elements which opt for peace and relinquish war. Minister Al Mahmoud called upon the international community to condemn the crime, which has been condemned by international organizations and bodies, as it constitutes a violation of international peace and security. He also called for tracking down the perpetrators and bringing them to justice as well as exerting pressure to release the abducted. He stressed that civilians must not be assaulted.

5. Minister Al Mahmoud further added that the first executive mechanism would meet in Khartoum on 9 June 2013 and that it would implement the development projects approved by the donor conference held in Doha in April, as well as the

recovery programme, pointing out that Qatar had already remitted the money it had pledged to the mechanism's account.

6. Mr. Chambas said that the meeting was dedicated to a discussion of the assassination of the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement, a signatory of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. He had ascertained that the assaulted group had been crossing from Chad to Western Darfur when the Gibril Ibrahim faction carried out the assassination. He pointed out that the assault and assassinations had taken place in Chadian territory with a view to intimidating others to renounce the Doha Document and the peace option, and then he submitted a detailed report on the incident.

7. Altom Sulieman Mohamed, representative of the Justice and Equality Movement, signatory of the Doha Document, explained how the assassination had taken place, indicating that the martyrs were 10 in number and the abducted 34, while the survivors numbered 10, including himself. He said that the aggressors had seized three loaded trucks leased from Chadian citizens, and five other leased vehicles carrying some leaders of the movement. He concluded by demanding the setting up of an international inquiry commission to investigate this terrorist crime committed by Gibril Ibrahim forces, adding that his movement had commissioned commander-in-chief Abdelkarim Dabjo to manage the movement's affairs for 60 days until finalizing its structures. He also reaffirmed his movement's commitment to peace and to what had been agreed upon in Doha.

8. The representative of OIC reaffirmed the support of OIC to the current peace process in Darfur, pointing out that OIC condemned the assassination and described it as criminal. He also renewed the call to the factions rejecting peace to join the peace process.

9. The EU representative said that the European Union had issued a statement on 16 May condemning the assassination, affirming support for the peace process in Darfur and calling upon the Gibril Ibrahim faction to release the abducted. She said that the European Union was concerned about the humanitarian situation in Darfur, adding that during the past four months, about 3,000 had been displaced as a result of violence, in addition to 12,000 already displaced as a result of attacks by the rebel movements and tribal conflicts. She pointed out that the victims had always been the civilian population and demanded that the non-signatory factions join the peace process. She also talked about disarming militias and about compensation, justice and human rights, demanding that dialogue in Darfur be comprehensive. She further indicated that some movements were active outside Darfur with the revolutionary front. She went on to say that the European Union supported a comprehensive political solution and sided with the call of President Al-Bashir in April in that respect. She concluded by saying that the European Union was present to denounce the tragic incident, which should be condemned by new and strong words, and that it always worked to assist any peace process.

10. The assistant of the Foreign Minister of Egypt for Sudan Affairs said there were groups that rejected peace and carried out abductions. They had abducted 21 displaced persons on their way to participate in a conference, and there was a coordinated escalation with the Revolutionary Front in North Kordofan to overthrow the Government. He continued to say that 10 years of war in Darfur had passed and the result was more famine and poverty. He added that the fighting between Sudanese forces and the forces of Arko Minni Minnawi had lately displaced

50,000 people, pointing out that the attacks had targeted civilians and infrastructure. He added that the meeting should condemn in an unequivocal manner the assassination and call upon the international community to condemn it. He also called upon international organizations to label the incident correctly as a terrorist act, and called for the perpetrators to be tracked down. He also called for upholding the development and rehabilitation projects in Darfur, pointing out that this would entail exerting pressure on the non-signatory factions.

11. The AU representative said that the Sudan issue was high on the agenda of the last AU summit. He considered the assassination of the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement and some members of his group on 12 May 2013 inside the territory of another country a blow to the peace process, and he considered it a cowardly attack. He pointed out that the African Union had issued a statement condemning the incident and considered it tragic and had called for tracking down the perpetrators and bringing them to justice. He also said that what had happened was a war crime, adding that the committee should speak with one voice and that its silence would be construed differently. He concluded by calling for the redoubling of peace efforts, saying that the terrorist incident would only increase insistence for peacebuilding.

12. Mr. Mahamat, Foreign Minister of Chad, described the incident as a heinous crime that must be condemned, pointing out that such crimes had been committed for the past 10 years. He said that there were elements that would threaten the peace process if attention were not paid to them. The Minister criticized the Chambas report and said he had neglected the role of Chad, adding that there was an influx of refugees to his country and within 45 days more than 50,000 of them had arrived in Chad. He went on to say that security in Darfur was weak and the relations between the Sudan and civil society was affected by what happened in Darfur, mentioning a document that contained all the demands of the people of Darfur. He added that some international reports equated the Government of the Sudan with rebel movements, although the latter killed people. He further said that his country hosted more than 300,000 refugees, and that some of them returned to their previous abode when the situation improved in Darfur, but made their way back to Chad when they felt that the situation was unstable. He concluded by calling for an evaluation of the peace process and of the position of the international community and its role towards what is happening, saying that sometimes one felt at a loss.

13. The representative of the Arab League, Mr. Haleema, said the League had issued a statement condemning the assassination and describing it as a terrorist act, demanding that the perpetrators be tracked down. He said that the crime aimed at assassinating the peace process, pointing out that condemning the Gibril Ibrahim faction was not sufficient, and he supported the setting up of an international commission of inquiry on the incident. He also commented on the intervention of the AU representative and said it embodied paradoxes, adding that some organizations practised a double standard in dealing with the Darfur crisis.

14. The representative of Canada commended the efforts of Qatar and UNAMID and said that Canada was concerned about the deteriorating situation in Darfur and the Sudan. At that point, Amin Hassan Omer, representative of the Sudan, interrupted, protesting that the representative had deviated from the agenda, which was devoted to the assassination of the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement. The representative said that she understood the desire to punish the perpetrators of the assassination incident and confirmed her country's support for these measures.

15. The representative of France condemned the tragic incident, saying that France considered it to be an unwarranted hostile and criminal incident targeting peace and security and the efforts exerted in that respect. He expressed, on behalf of France, condolences to families of the victims, and said the international community should condemn the incident in the strongest terms, that the perpetrators should be punished, that the peace process should continue and that efforts should be concentrated on halting violence. He said that France had continued to support the peace process in Darfur since its inception in Doha. He said that an end should be put to displacement, and that the brave people who opted for peace should be supported, while those who rejected peace should be dealt with strictly and firmly. First, though, they should be engaged in dialogue and peace talks.

16. The representative of the United Kingdom conveyed his country's full expression of condemnation, qualifying the incident as unacceptable and describing it not as a personal attack, but one which has a political agenda. He called for measures to be taken and emphasized peace, calling for the exertion of pressure on all parties to engage in the peace process. He said that it was necessary to create a positive cycle in Darfur, that there was a need to disarm militias and a need for justice and reconciliation, the settlement of land conflicts, the achievement of development and the honouring of commitments.

17. Amin Hassan Omer, representative of the Government of the Sudan, began by offering condolences in memory of the souls of the martyrs and commending Qatar, Chad and the organizations that had condemned the terrorist incident. He said that peace in Darfur faced challenges and witnessed progress but that attacks by rebel movements rejecting peace as well as tribal conflicts posed hurdles to the peace process. He said that what was needed was condemnation of the assassination, an inquiry and a trial, as this faction did not deny having committed the assassination, which he described as an act of terror, demanding that hostages held by the Gibril Ibrahim faction be set free. He proposed the formation of an offshoot committee to be chaired by Qatar to follow up on emergencies. He concluded by reaffirming the commitment of the Sudan to the agreement signed with the Justice and Equality Movement and establishing working relations with all partners.

18. Tigani Al Sissi, Head of the Darfur Regional Authority, expressed his appreciation for the role of Qatar in achieving peace and that of Chad in unifying the movements. He said the Gibril Ibrahim faction had been rejecting peace talks mainly because there were other factions, and it issued a statement to that effect despite its knowledge of the presence of the other movements. As for the faction of Abd Wahid, it had refused to recognize the Doha forum and the envoys. Mr. Sissi added that with the testimony of UNAMID, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur had overwhelmingly been welcomed and rejoiced. He added that the Gibril Ibrahim faction had gone to South Sudan and started launching attacks from there, saying it had attacked Graida three times, leading to the death of many innocent people, and had attacked Labado and Muhajiriya, targeting the regional authority's projects in Marla. The Gibril Ibrahim faction had attacked the Western Salvation Highway numerous times. He added that if the Gibril Ibrahim faction is not addressed and dealt with, the Doha Document will not be implemented. He added that unless addressed, the Gibril Ibrahim faction would be enticed to commit further atrocities. He also expressed his fears about the attempts of certain circles to link Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile together, pointing out that this is rejected, as Darfur has its own forum in Doha, and those regions have their forum, in Addis Ababa. He concluded by saying that the assassination of Mohamed Bashar and some members

of his group should be not only condemned but also labelled as an act of terror similar to the act of terror committed in Toronto, Canada, by the group of Gibril against the late Bashar faction.

19. The Russian representative said that the assassination of Mr. Bashar and some members of his group was a blow to the peace process and that the current situation in Darfur was weak and fragile and the assassination should motivate more work towards peace, particularly while the peace process is still alive. He concluded by affirming his country's support for the peace process in Darfur, and commended Mr. Sissi's analysis and expressed his conviction that they were appropriate.

20. The representative of Japan strongly condemned the assassination of Mr. Bashar and some members of his group and called for exerting more efforts to bring peace to Darfur and putting more pressure on the factions rejecting peace.

21. The representative of the United States said that his country condemned the assassination and called for the release of the captives. He said that his country also renewed its call to resolve differences politically and not militarily, noting particularly that civil society had suffered tremendously and that the security situation was deteriorating rapidly in Darfur, resulting in the displacement of more than 300,000 people this year, which is more than those displaced during the past two years. He said that violence arose from the rebel movements and tribal conflicts, noting his concern that many provisions of the Doha Document had not been implemented, such as the disarmament of militias and provisions concerning land, justice and compensation. He pointed out that the United States had contacted the Gibril Ibrahim, Abdelwahid and Minni Minnawi factions, and that dialogue should not be limited to Darfur but should include fighters of the revolutionary front, who had begun joining hands with some opposition forces. He added that one should be mindful of the connections between the Darfur movements and the revolutionary front.

22. Divergent views were expressed at the meeting regarding the content of its final statement. The vast majority of participants insisted that the final statement of the meeting abide strictly by the agenda of the meeting, the subject of which was the assassination of Mohamed Bashar. This approach was supported by Chad, Qatar, Egypt, the League of Arab States, OIC, France, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Justice and Equality Movement, the Justice and Liberation Movement and the Government of the Sudan.

23. The statement was adopted by consensus, with Canada disassociating itself, as it did also in the donors conference.

24. Generally all the countries, including Canada, condemned the assassination incident.

25. The most prominent conclusions of the meeting are set out below. The participants:

(a) Condemned the assassination and called for holding the Gibril Ibrahim faction and all perpetrators of violence in Darfur accountable and bringing them to justice;

(b) Condemned the Gibril Ibrahim faction for violating Chadian territory and killing Chadian citizens;

(c) Called for a permanent ceasefire in Darfur as well as a comprehensive and inclusive agreement based on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.